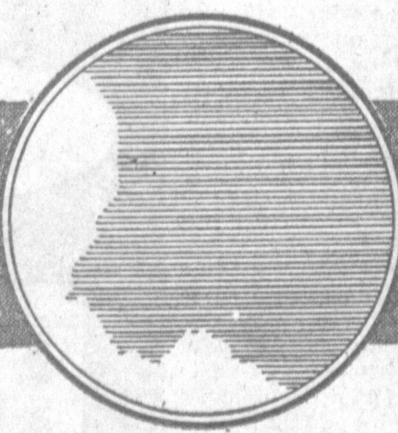


CHARGES FLY AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

How does it feel to kick the smoking habit and stick to your guns? To keep up with the progress of Columnist Becky Shaeffer, whose first report appeared in the PRESS a few weeks ago, see INTERIM REPORT, page A-2.

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GAS LEAK EXPLODES, STREET WORKER DIES

Board Rehires Dr. J. H. Hull

In a climate of charges, counter-charges and accusations of broken campaign promises, Torrance school board members aired board business in public at a regular meeting of the Board of Education Monday evening.

Emerging victorious, although not entirely unscathed, was Dr. J. H. Hull, who came out with a new four year contract for superintendency of the district.

Contract renewal, which heretofore had been a matter decided within the confines of personnel committee, was made an object of public discussion at the suggestion of Burt Lynn, school board president.

Following a motion by Mrs. Pauline Watts, newest member of the board, to renew the superintendent's contract for four more years which was seconded by board member William Hansen, Lynn stated that he wished to poll the board in public because he "believed that the public is entitled to know how each board member votes."

Sparked by criticism of the administration from a woman in the audience, the already-unprecedented meeting erupted into an oral vivisection of the superintendent.

ELECTION PROMISES

In the discussion that followed, Mrs. Watts pointed out that she had campaigned for her board position last Spring on a platform which boasted retention of the superintendent and that she had emerged with the highest number of votes from the electorate.

"That depend on who you were talking to at that time, Polly," countered Lynn.

Board member Albert Charles stated that although he had stated at the time of his campaign that he felt a weak school board had been dominated by a strong

superintendent, he had since found the superintendent had supported the new board, and he intended to endorse contract renewal.

Similar sentiment was expressed by board member Charles Hanson, who cited the superintendent's cooperation in such board changes as departmentalization of classes and letter-grade report cards.

Dr. Kurt Sherry went on record as saying that he had never supported the superintendent and never intended to do so.

HULL ACCUSATIONS

Lynn summarized his feelings by stating that his philosophies and those of Dr. Hull were at odds and that neither of them ever voted for one another.

At this point a member of the audience, Mrs. Florence Summers, remarked, "As long as we're being frank about who voted for who, you, Mr. Lynn, ran on a platform of 'Get Hull.'"

The board president retorted angrily, "You are no lady. You're lying."

In a change of pace, Wayne Sanders, audience member who identified himself as father of two children, said he felt that the board superintendent, and administrative staff had been doing "a fantastic and wonderful job."

Results of the voting came out as follows:

Charles: "Yes."

Hanson: "Yes."

Watts: "Yes."

Lynn: "No."

Dr. Sherry: "Congratulations, Dr. Hull.—No."



FIREMEN SPRAY railroad warning sign to protect it from searing heat of a fire that erupted from a leaking gas line. One man was killed and two injured in the

blaze. Firemen believe a torch used by workers, ignited the gas, trapping the men in a ball of flame.

—PRESS photo

Men Caught In Flames

Three men were trapped in a sea of flames last Friday when a street construction job burst into flame.

One of the victims, Adolphus Alcon, 54, a truck driver for the City of Los Angeles, died from his injuries in Harbor General Hospital. Others taken to the hospital with burns were Abraham Creighton, 39, and Henry Greenwood, 53, of Los Angeles.

The three men, who were working on a street repair project at Plaza del Amo and Western Ave., had stopped to chat when the area in which they were standing burst into flames.

Police believe there was a gas line leaking under the ground at the spot where the men were standing and a torch being used by some railroad repair crews ignited the fumes.

Torrance firemen rushed to the scene to control the fire until its source could be found and cut off.

Creighton is still hospitalized with second degree burns on his face, hands and chest, according to authorities. Greenwood was treated and released at Harbor Hospital.

When the fire erupted the three men ran in different directions. Alcon and Greenwood apparently picked the wrong way and were followed by the flames.

Victims told police they didn't hear anything, suddenly the whole street was in flames.

Homeowners Fight Jets

At a meeting of the Southwood Homeowners Association, residents in the area of the Torrance Airport voted to fight the use of the local facility by jet powered aircraft.

Also at the meeting were Jack Eagan, airport manager, and Gene Holderman, representing the Federal Aviation Agency. Eagan told the homeowners he believes eventually all aircraft will be jet powered, plus the airport would gain revenue from the jets.

Bill Uerkwitz, president of the homeowners association, said they are happy with the airport as it is now and want to keep it for private planes of the piston type. "We are looking toward the future, when West Torrance will be another Playa del Rey," Uerkwitz added, referring to the present noise problem in that city.

Council Action

Members of the Torrance City Council at their weekly

meeting last night: Denied a request by inhabitants of the Cote d'Azur Villas to construct a six-foot high concrete block wall along the project's property line on Paseo de la Playa.

Postponed for one week action on a Planning Commission recommendation granting a zoning waiver to Jack Curtis of 2514 W. 170th St.

Approved a request by the J. H. Barton Construction Co. for a waiver to construct a nine-foot high fence on property located at Taylor Ct. and 166th St.

Refused to act upon a variance request by Alfred G. Gagle because of lack of jurisdiction.

Refunded building permit fees to a swimming pool builder because work was never started on the projects.

Received notice of the completion of sanitary sewers in Redondo Beach Blvd. from City Engineer W. M. Nollac.

Accepted the completion of improvements to the South Torrance Sewer Assessment District and authorized a \$14,785.74 contribution to the district.

Were notified of the completion of improvements and storm drain at Hawthorne Ave. and 234th St.

Heard a report from the city engineer on the status of proposed improvements of Hawthorne Ave. between Newton St. and the southern

city boundary. Awarded a bid to the W. B. Equipment Co. for the amount of \$3,449.68 for the purchase of Atlas Drill Tower Safety Net.

Accepted revised specifications for the engineering series from the Civil Service Commission.

Approved construction for a new \$80,000 North Torrance Library.

Approved six items submitted by the council's Airport Committee.

Appropriated \$1,600 from the Airport Bond Construction Funds for clearing airport area.

Agreed to share the costs of construction with Santa Fe Railroad of grade crossing protection at the intersections of Carson and Madrona and Sepulveda and Madrona.

Commended in a resolution the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team for winning the world championship.

Passed a resolution complimenting the Lions Club of West Torrance upon the installation of its charter officers and members.

Approved for the third and final reading six city ordinances ranging from modifying the state retirement system to prohibiting noisy animals from the city.

Accepted two recommendations from the Traffic Commission denying requests for traffic signals on Madrona Ave. and for removal of one-hour parking signs on Border Ave.

Nine Injured When Bus Slams Truck

Nine passengers, including the driver, were injured Saturday when a Torrance bus slammed into a parked truck in Long Beach.

Driver Duane Lantz, 29, of 2451 W. 238th St. Torrance, said he was forced to swerve when an automobile cut in front of him.

The driver and eight passengers were released from Long Beach Memorial and Pacific Hospitals after being treated for abrasions and bruises.

A gaping hole was torn on the right side of the Torrance Bus Lines coach when it hit the two-ton flatbed truck on Pacific Coast Hwy. near Canal Ave.

Charles B. Oats Is PORAC Prexy

Torrance Police Officer Charles B. Oats, 36, was elected new president of the Peace Officers Research Association of California, at a meeting of the Los Angeles Chapter in Hawthorne Monday night.

Oats, a 13 year resident of Torrance and on the police force since 1955, pledged a continuing fight to stop people from undermining the effectiveness of law enforcement.



INSPECTING DAMAGE to Torrance bus, done when driver Duane Lantz ripped into a parked truck Saturday

evening are Bill Johnson and Ivan Eckersley, Torrance Bus Lines mechanics.

South Coast Communities Form Industrial Council

Formation of a regional council of industrial development representatives of 16 South Coast area communities was announced this week by Arthur L. Reeves, chairman of the Industrial Development Committee of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Neil Fitzgerald, past president and now chairman of the Lakewood Chamber's Industrial Development Committee, is a chairman of the newly formed South Coast Industrial Development Council.

Fitzgerald, a Union Development Company executive, was elected to a one-year term during an Oct. 24 meeting in Paramount that included adoption of the council's organizational policy and objectives.

Reeves stated that one of the group's primary objectives will be improved communications between communities and establishment

of a problem-solving environment that could increase the effectiveness of local industrial development programs.

"We also hope that by getting to know each other better we can substantially improve our abilities as salesmen for the entire South Coast region," Reeves said.

Core of the South Coast region, as identified by the Research Department of Security-First National Bank, is a 290-square mile area bounded by the City of Torrance on the west, by Artesia Blvd. on the north, Orange County on the east and the Long Beach-Wilmington-San Pedro-Palos Verdes area on the south.

Described as one of Southern California's most diversified areas, it embraces 22 per cent of the country's industrial acreage. Present population of 800,000 is expected to reach 900,000 by 1970.